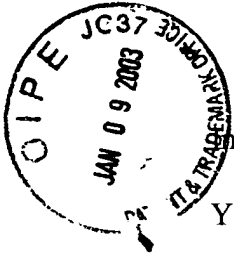


1753

03500.015264.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

YOSHITAKA NAGAO, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/824,092

Filed: April 3, 2001

For: FACING MATERIAL,  
FABRICATING METHOD  
THEREOF, SOLAR CELL  
MODULE, MANUFACTURING  
METHOD THEREOF,  
INSTALLING METHOD  
THEREOF, AND  
PHOTOVOLTAIC  
POWER-GENERATING  
APPARATUS

Examiner: B. L. Mutschler

Group Art Unit: 1753

#  
6/W.M.  
1/13/03

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 10 2003  
TC 1700

December 23, 2002 (Monday)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 22, 2002,  
Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the Group I claims, namely Claims 1 to  
22 and 28. The Restriction Requirement is, however, traversed.

Traversal is on the ground that there would not be undue burden in  
examining the three groups of claims in a single application. In particular, MPEP § 808

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Service as first  
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on Dec. 23, 2002  
(Date of Deposit)

Damond E. Vadnais, Reg no. 52,310

Name of Attorney for Applicant

Damond E. Vadnais  
Signature

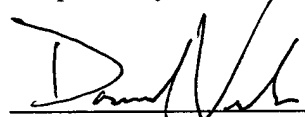
Dec. 23, 2002  
Date of Signature

makes clear that in order to require restriction between independent or distinct inventions, reasons for insisting upon a restriction requirement, such as undue burden, must also be shown. In the present instance, it is not believed that there would be undue burden in examining the three groups of claims in a single application, since the three groups of claims are not so different as would require a burden on the Examiner that is significantly beyond that of the normal burdens of examination.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 52,310

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New York, New York 10112-2200  
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